

# SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAM

All services provided by the Skagit Conservation District are free and without obligation. We are a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency.

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*Fencing*

## Cost Share Basics

### Sign up:

- The Skagit Conservation District has many grant opportunities that help landowners implement Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Due to the fact that there are many different funding sources and requirements for each grant, there are different reimbursement rates and approved BMP's depending on your location in Skagit County. Ask a small planner what you qualify for!
- The typical reimbursement rates are 50% - 75% (depending on grant source and practice)
- You will need to pay all costs implementing the project up-front. After the project is fully implemented and inspected, you will be reimbursed. You will need to provide all receipts.
- **The District cannot provide reimbursement for labor and materials purchased before approval of a cost share application.**
- The SCD determines eligibility for cost-share based on highest priority and greatest likelihood of improving water quality in the watershed you are located in.
- SCD will provide you with an engineered design of your practice.

### **Adult labor is valued at \$20 per hour and is subject to prior approval steps involved**

- A Cost Share Application and Landowner Agreement is filled out by you and your SCD planner
- Once you have received your engineered-design,
  - You have 90 days to implement your design and hiring contractors is ok.
  - Have the engineer and/or SCD technician inspect progress of construction at key, predetermined steps, including final inspection.
- Finally, turn in all of your receipts and get reimbursed!

## What SCD expects from you

### **Documentation—Keep your receipts! (All documents related to the project)**

- Timely installation—you will have 90 days to implement your practice (barring unforeseen issues such as weather or natural disaster)
- Adherence to the approved design—NO unauthorized changes to the design without prior permission from the engineer and/or technician (unauthorized changes may disqualify you from receiving reimbursement)
- Maintenance—Maintain the BMP for the life of the practice
- Permits— the landowner is required to have any necessary permits in place before construction.

### **Some Examples of BMP's that are commonly eligible for cost-share**

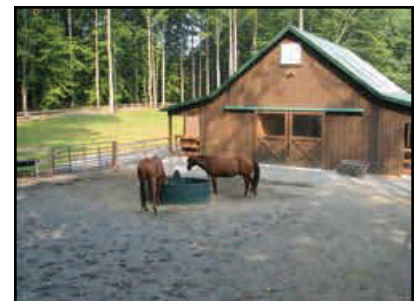
- Heavy Use Area or Sacrifice Area
- Gutters, Downspouts and Underground Outlets for existing buildings
- Use Exclusions—Fencing animals out of waterways, wetlands, and ditches
- Compost Bins/Manure Storage

### **Some Examples of BMP's NOT cost-shared**

- Pasture Management—seeding, cross fencing, weed control, fertilizations, etc.
- Gutters and Downspouts on newly constructed buildings
- Grading and Clearing when NOT associated with BMP work
- Permit Fees and Electrical components



*Manure Storage*



*Sacrifice Area*

## COST SHARE PROCESS STEPS

- Initial Site Visit with Landowner
- Review and Sign Cooperator Agreement and Public Records Act Info
- Summary of Cooperator Agreement for Board Review and Approval
- Develop a Farm Plan
- Review completed Farm Plan with Landowner
- Present Farm Plan to Board for Approval of Farm Plan from Board
- Design's for structural BMP's by a Certified Designer
- Cost Estimates for BMP's
- After Designs are completed and signed off, schedule a site visit to have Landowner review and have it signed.
- Enter projects into the Commission's CPD's database for possible funding
- If and/or once a practice is funded, then print a cost share application and review design and cost share application with landowner.
- Summary for Board approval
- If application approved, then notify landowner.
- Before construction pictures
- As built inspections
- Photo Documentation—before construction, during construction, and after finished construction.
- Receipts turned in by landowner
- Final cost share paperwork signed off and sent into commission for payment reimbursement
- 2 to 3 weeks until commission cuts a check to Skagit Conservation.